

# REOPENING BELOIT

## Questions & Answers



### Why is this being implemented in Beloit?

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are increasing in Beloit and Rock County as of October 5, 2020. The disproportionate impact on our community is concerning as we attempt to stop the spread of the virus, protect our most vulnerable residents, and keep the health care system from being overloaded.

### What does the plan entail?

The resolution adopted by the Beloit City Council allows Beloit businesses to safely reopen while protecting the health of vulnerable individuals in Beloit. The resolution addresses the risks of COVID-19 via the following:

- **Requiring the use of face coverings in any public enclosed space.** This requirement includes exceptions that are consistent with Gov. Evers' mask mandate.
- **Requiring any buildings or spaces that are open to the public to meet public health and safety practices,** including (but not limited to) the requirement of physical distancing. Note this section of the resolution applies to all public spaces, including in businesses such as bars, salons and barber shops, as well as churches.
- **Requiring all individuals in the City of Beloit to comply with physical distancing requirements** and protective measurements when in shared or public spaces outside of their own homes.
- **Strongly discouraging mass gatherings of over 25 individuals;** mass gatherings of over 25 individuals in city-owned facilities and spaces, including parks, will be prohibited.
- **Encouraging individuals living in Beloit to stay home at their place of residence** and to avoid traveling outside of Rock County.
- **Encouraging individuals who may be vulnerable to the risks of COVID-19 to take extra precautions** and not leave their homes for their own personal health and safety.



Updated October 6, 2020

## What are the requirements & recommendations for businesses to reopen?

- To the greatest extent feasible, use technology to avoid meeting in person, including virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work.
- Review the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (“WEDC”) guidelines on safe business practices available here: <https://wedc.org/reopen-guidelines/>.
- Comply with Physical Distancing and Protective Measure Requirements except for those contacts that are incidental and brief in nature. This shall not be construed to require physical distancing between individuals from the same living unit or household. If compliance with the Physical Distancing Requirements of 6 feet between all individuals cannot be maintained, use PPE or alternative physical distancing precautions recommended by the WEDC, DHS or CDC is required.
- Maintain physical distancing standards from other individuals who are not members of a person’s household or living unit.
- Restrict the number of workers present on premises to no more than is strictly necessary to perform operations.
- Increase standards of facility cleaning and disinfection to limit worker and patron exposure to COVID-19, as well as adopting protocols to clean and disinfect in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the workplace.
- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent workers from entering the premises if they display symptoms identified by the CDC as symptoms related to COVID-19 or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Adopt policies to actively screen and prevent customers, visitors, guests from entering the premises if they display symptoms identified by the CDC as symptoms related to COVID-19 or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Consider establishing curbside pick-up to reduce in-store traffic and mitigate outdoor lines.
- Cease any self-service operations of any type of food or beverage.
- Except for grocery stores, prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food.
- Establish lines to regulate entry in with markings for patrons to enable them to stand at least six feet apart from one another while waiting. Stores should also use alternatives to lines, including allowing customers to wait in their cars for a text message or phone call and scheduling pick-ups or entries to the store.
- Cooperate with public health investigations related to COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases related to the business operations, including excluding employees based on public health recommendations and assisting public health with identifying and notifying contacts of cases.

## What is the city's authority to implement this?

Although the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the state's Safer at Home order on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, local municipalities and public health officials maintain their authority and obligations related to prevention and control of COVID-19. This authority is under Chapter 323 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and section 1.10 of the Code of General Ordinances for the City of Beloit.

## How long is this order in effect?

The City of Beloit's resolution will be in effect until November 17, 2020, unless otherwise modified by the Beloit City Council. The Beloit City Council will review public health data and evaluate the latest information in the public health crisis on a monthly basis to determine any next steps. **The City of Beloit's order is intended to allow all businesses to safely reopen while protecting the health of vulnerable residents in Beloit and help keep the health care system from being overwhelmed.**

## What are physical distancing and protective measure requirements?

- Maintain physical distancing of six feet between people not residing in a single living unit or household.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands).
- Regularly clean high-touched surfaces.
- Do not shake hands.
- Follow all other public health recommendations issued by State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services ("DHS"), Rock County Health Department and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC").

## How will this be enforced?

While we will seek to first educate individuals and businesses about these physical distancing requirements, failure to do so could result in municipal citations and/or could impact a license.

## What is the recommendation on mass gatherings?

The City of Beloit is recommending that mass gatherings be under 25 people. The City of Beloit is prohibiting mass gatherings of over 25 people at city-owned facilities.

## How does this impact City of Beloit employees/operations?

We will continue to operate our city facilities with more stringent restrictions. The City of Beloit will not allow groups to exceed 25 individuals in public parks or buildings.

Parks and trails will remain open. Please limit any gatherings to groups of under 25 and adhere to physical distancing requirements.